

driver. This includes the driver's mental alertness, distractions in the car, ability to handle the vehicle, and reaction time. The third source is the physical attributes of the vehicle. This includes such things as the condition of the brakes and tires, vehicle responsiveness, size of the vehicle, and how well the windshield wipers and defroster work. All traffic accidents can be attributed to one or more of these sources; however, the driver is often the primary source.

Traffic accident records assist in defining deficient areas in the highway system. It is a good indicator of where the highway system breaks down. Accident locations in Farmville are at or exceeding practical highway capacity. (See Chapter 4 - Deficiency Analysis. Accident patterns, revealed in accident data, are effective in the improvement decisions of a highway system. The traffic accident data received for Farmville had certain criteria. They were (1) accidents documented between January 1988 and December 1990; (2) accidents occurring a minimum of 500 feet from the intersection; and (3) a minimum of five accidents at an intersection. (See Table 3 and Figure 4)

Table 3 - Traffic Accident Profile	
Intersection	No. of Accidents
US 264A & SR 1139	18
US 264A & SR 1221	15
US 264A & US 13	13
US 13 & SR 1139	12
Main Street & Wilson Street	11
US 264A & Main Street	10
SR 1221 & SR 1200	9
Main Street & Pine Street	9
Church Street & Fields Street	9
US 264A & Main Street	6
NC 121 & SR 1200	6
Contentnea Street & Wilson Street	6
Grimmersburg Street & Wilson Street	7
NC 121 & SR 1221	5
Field Street & Pine Street	5
Cotton & Main Street	5

Bridge Conditions

Bridges are a vital and unique element of a highway system. First, they represent the highest unit investment of all elements of the system. Second, any inadequacy or deficiency in a bridge reduces the value of the total investment. Third, a bridge presents the greatest opportunity of all potential highway failures for disruption of community welfare. Finally, and most